

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03531

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION IN PARA 2.)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MARR, XF, LE, IS, FR
SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF THE UNIFIL MANDATE

REF: USUN 3501

1. IN BRIEF MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, FRENCH UN PERMREP
LEPRETTE TOLD LEONARD THAT FRANCE INTENDS TO SEEK ONLY
A THREE MONTH RENEWAL OF THE UNIFIL MANDATE. LEONARD
REPEATED THE ARGUMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE TO THE
FRENCH MISSION ABOUT THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH
A LIMITED RENEWAL. LEPRETTE RESPONDED THAT FRANCE HAD
NO INTENTION EITHER TO UNDERCUT UNIFIL OR WITHDRAW ITS
CONTINGENTS. ITS SOLE PURPOSE IN PROPOSING A LIMITED
RENEWAL WAS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE LEBANESE AND THE
ISRAELIS TO MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. LEPRETTE HAD
ALREADY MET WITH TUENI AND INTENDS TO SEEK EARLY MEETING
WITH THE ISRAELIS TO INFORM THEM OF THE FRENCH POSITION.
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2. MISOFF DISCUSSED UPCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
ON UNIFIL WITH LAMDAN OF THE ISRAELI MISSION,
INCLUDING BRIEF RECAP OF URQUHART'S VIEWS ON SYG'S
REPORT, OUR RECOMMENDATION TO UN THAT IT BRIEF ISRAELIS
BEFORE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT, AND FRENCH POSITION.
LAMDAN SAID THAT JONAH HAD MET WITH HIM EARLIER IN THE

DAY AND INDICATED THAT REPORT WOULD PROVIDE FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH UNIFIL HAS ENCOUNTERED IN CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE. JONAH REQUESTED LAMDAN TO PASS ON REQUEST THAT GOI DO ALL IT CAN BETWEEN NOW AND APPEARANCE OF THE REPORT TO TRY TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND. JONAH INDICATED REPORT MIGHT BE HELD UP UNTIL SEPTEMBER 13 TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREA.

3. LAMDAN ALSO TOLD US THAT ISRAELI PERMREP BLUM MET KWITH SC PRESIDENT HULINSKY SEPT 7 TO DISCUSS PROBABLE TIMING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING. HULINSKY INDICATED LIKELIHOOD MEETING WOULD BE ON SEPT 15. HULINSKY INDICATED HE WOULD CONDUCT QUICK SERIES OF BILATERALS FOLLOWED BY INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ONCE SYG'S REPORT IS OUT AND WOULD CONVENE THE COUNCIL ONLY AFTER AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION. LEBANESE, EGYPTIANS AND KUWAITIS HAVE TOLD US THAT AT ARAB GROUP MEETING SEPT 7, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT TO SEEK RENEWAL OF UNIFIL FOR SIX MONTHS. WE PRESUME KUWAITI PERMREP BISHARA IS WORKING ON TEXT OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION, AS HE INDICATED TO LEONARD LAST WEEK. WE BELIEVE THIS IS LIKELY TO INCLUDE A) REAFFIRMATION THAT OBJECTIVE OF UNIFIL IS TO ASSIST THE GOL IN ESTABLISHING ITS LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND B) CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL. ONCE THE SYG'S
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REPORT IS OUT, WE INTEND TO HOLD MEETING OF THE WESTERN FIVE TO TRY TO COORDINATE OUR APPROACH -- INCLUDING CONVINCING FRENCH TO ACCEPT SIX MONTH RENEWAL. YOUNG

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